

Minutes
Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana
Strategic Planning Meeting
August 17, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Indiana Government Center, Conference Room C

Members Present:

- Dr. Jennifer Walthall, for Dr. Jerome Adams, Indiana State Health Commissioner, Indiana State Department of Health
- Brian Bailey, Director, State Budget Agency
- Christine Blessinger, Director, Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services
- Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director, Indiana Department of Child Services
- Representative David Frizzell
- Senator Travis Holdman
- Larry Landis, Executive Director, Public Defender Council (by phone)
- Senator Tim Lanane
- Susan Lightfoot, Chief Probation Officer, Henry County Probation Department
- Danielle McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
- Kevin Moore, Director, Division of Mental Health and Addiction
- Chris Naylor, for David Powell, Executive Director, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council
- Representative Vanessa Summers
- Glenda Ritz, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education
- Justice Loretta Rush, Chief Justice of Indiana
- Jane Seigel, Executive Director, Indiana Office of Court Services
- John Wernert, M.D., Secretary, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Mary Willis, Chief Administrative Officer, Indiana Office of Judicial Administration
- Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Chief Justice Rush welcomed all attendees to the meeting. She also introduced Mary Willis, the new Chief Administrative Officer for the Supreme Court's Office of Judicial Administration, who will replace Jane Seigel on the CISC.

2. Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2016 meeting.

The minutes from the May 18, 2016 meeting were approved.

3. Strategic Planning Process and Outcomes.

Chief Justice Rush provided an overview of the last three years of the CISC. The goal of the strategic planning process is to determine where the CISC would like to be three years from now and devise a roadmap to get there.

Chief Justice Rush expressed her thanks to Casey Family Programs (CFP) for the considerable help they have provided the CISC. Holly Merz from CFP discussed the task force report she provided to the CISC at its last meeting. Ms. Merz noted that one of the biggest beneficial effects the CISC has had is the

cultivation of new and pre-existing synergies between different agencies and individuals working with children in Indiana. She believed it was the perfect time to begin strategic planning for the CISC's next steps. CFP has brought consultants from Claris on board to facilitate the strategic planning process. Claris has assisted CFP in many states, including a similar effort in New Jersey.

Consultant facilitators Kristy McCullough and Kay Kornmeyer began by introducing themselves and asking the attending CISC members to introduce themselves. Ms. Kornmeyer briefly discussed the CISC's mission and the goals of the strategic planning process. She also outlined the process, which includes five phases:

- I. Discuss Strategic Planning Process and Outcomes
- II. Identify Strategic Priorities
- III. Identify Strategic Goals
- IV. Develop Objectives
- V. Conclusion and Next Steps

The consultants provided a draft strategic plan and methodology to the CISC members for their review. The plan and methodology were intended only as a starting point for the process and the consultants expected that the documents would be changed significantly from the form in which it was presented to the CISC.

4. Discuss/Identify Strategic Priorities and Goals

The consultants discussed briefly the definition of strategic priorities, which are the overarching broad aims of the CISC. These aims have somewhat dovetailed with the CISC's task forces over the past three years. The strategic priorities do not need to have any link to the CISC's existing or future task forces, and priorities can be added, removed, or changed based on the results of strategic planning.

The consultants then led the CISC in a discussion of its strategic priorities for the coming three years. The CISC discussed the addition of Mental Health as a CISC priority. Jane Seigel noted the essential need for mental health capacity and availability in the state. There was a consensus that mental health needed to be a bigger emphasis for the CISC's work. Although several task forces were working on mental health issues, a more focused approach was necessary to avoid duplication of efforts.

The need for two of the current task forces was scrutinized by the CISC. The Cross-System Youth Task Force had already assisted with the ongoing implementation of Indiana's dual status child initiative, and CISC members discussed whether that task force would still be needed after the implementation was completed. Likewise, the Data Mapping and Sharing Task Force had already completed the project it was constructed to undertake and would soon finish its Information Sharing Guide. While data sharing between systems is important, some committee members wondered whether data sharing was merely an objective now as opposed to a strategic priority. The Data Sharing and Mapping Task Force could continue to exist to support the other task forces' data requests and requests of the CISC without being a full priority of the CISC.

Dr. Jennifer Walthall also contributed to a discussion of infant mortality and the epidemic of drug-addicted babies. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is making significant efforts to study and reduce the population of drug-addicted births. Based on previous discussion about using CISC resources in areas where more than one agency is needed to effectively address a problem, Dr. Walthall wondered if these efforts were better left as an ISDH initiative. However, Chief Justice Rush felt there was considerable benefit in cross-system input into this problem. Further, Dr. Walthall expressed that perinatal health was

a considerable concern both in terms of preventing withdrawal of newborns and reducing the number of infant deaths. Perinatal Health was combined with Infant Mortality as a CISC priority.

After this discussion, the CISC had settled on several priorities, although the consultants asserted these could easily change as the process continued. These priorities included:

1. Child Safety and Services
2. Educational Outcomes
3. Mental Health and Substance Abuse
4. Perinatal Health and Infant Mortality
5. Cross-System Youth and Juvenile Justice

The CISC next turned to strategic goals within these priorities. For each identified priority, CISC members offered more specific statements of intended achievements in that area to further define how that priority could best be fulfilled. Around 10-12 statements were listed for each priority, and some were modified or saved to discuss as objectives later in the process.

While discussing strategic goals, Chief Justice Rush identified a concern with the CISC's facilitation of its own responsibilities and how effectively it was working. From this, a further priority of Performance Management was identified. This priority examines the inner functions of the CISC, including Executive Committee meetings, communication with its task forces, and distribution of work. The CFP task force review conveyed the concern of many of the task forces that they did not always know what they should be working on, or whether or not the many projects they identified themselves were in line with what the CISC expected of them. CISC members believed that improving the quality of the CISC's structure and inner workings would likewise improve the quality of the work produced.

The CISC engaged in further discussion of the CISC's role in Indiana. One vision for the CISC was to be the "air traffic controller" for children's programs, ensuring that duplication of efforts does not occur and coordinating responses from multiple sectors to facilitate a unified, effective response.

5. Develop Objectives

The CISC next examined objectives for its strategic goals and priorities. Objectives are intended to be specific action steps that fulfill or help fulfill a strategic goal. For each priority, specific objectives were brainstormed and discussed. More specific projects that were referenced in the priority and goal discussions were now brought back and sorted appropriately. Objectives that seemed to bridge different priorities were examined and placed in the best spot to ensure they would be accomplished. These objectives would be reviewed at the next meeting and adjusted for greatest efficiency. Additional objectives may be identified at that time.

6. Next Meeting – September 21, 2016.

The next meeting of the CISC to complete the strategic planning process is scheduled on September 21, 2016 at the Indiana Government Center, Conference Room A.